

Do You Have The Receipts?

Joe Slater

“They received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11b, NKJV).

I've been hearing a saying that is new to me: “I have the receipts.” It's a memorable way of saying, “I'm telling the truth, and I can prove it.” When you need to return that defective appliance, you can prove where you bought it by showing them the receipt.

Jesus tasked His disciples (that's us) with spreading His gospel to all people throughout the world. As Paul fulfilled that commission in Berea, he proclaimed the truth to them. Unlike some in Thessalonica, the open-minded Bereans gave Paul a fair hearing. But before accepting what he taught, they looked to see if he “had the receipts” (i.e. was his doctrine what the Old Testament Scriptures said about Messiah?).

We have no right to expect people to believe what we teach them unless we “have the receipts.” Modern American culture has bought heavily into the Oprah Winfree idea that everyone has their own version of truth: “Your truth, my truth, his truth, her truth, their truth, somebody else's truth.” But what about “the” truth?

We owe it to the Lord and to our neighbors to know the Bible well enough to lovingly and kindly point people to God's word, which is truth (John 17:17). Jesus said the truth will make people free from the slavery of sin (John 8:32). That being the case, we simply must “have the receipts”! If we don't handle aright the word of truth, innumerable false teachers will be more than happy to lead our neighbors astray.

Do you have the receipts?

How to Get the Most out of Life

There's a story that tells of the kettle who asked those around her what it took to get the most out of life. Here is the advice she received:

- Take panes, said the window.
- Drive hard, said the hammer.
- Aspire to great things, said the nutmeg grater.
- Make light around you, said the match.
- Don't lose your head, said the pin.
- Be up to date, said the calendar.
- Never do anything offhand, said the glove.
- Just reflect, said the mirror.
- Be sharp, said the knife.
- Be someone others can count on, said the calculator.
- Find a good thing and stick to it, said the glue.

And that's why the kettle sings as she works and works as she sings.

--Author Unknown

Jesus Christ Offers . . .

- . . . forgiveness for the past,
- . . . purpose for the present,
- . . . hope for the future

-- via Broadway Church of Christ, Campbellsville, KY

SALVATION

Salvation is not a reward for the righteous

But a gift for the sinner.

Within Danger's Grasp

“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made...” (Genesis 3:1)

As a boy, my grandfather enjoyed hunting rabbits. At the edge of his family's property stood a large water tank, and rabbits often ran under it and into a hole in the ground for safety. My grandfather would sometimes sit with his pellet rifle, waiting for the rabbit to exit. At times he attempted to reach under the tank in an effort to grab the rabbit. However, he was unable to reach the rabbit or the rabbit's warren.

A few years later, the tank was taken down. While removing it, workers disturbed the ground and discovered something completely unexpected. The hole my grandfather believed to be a rabbit warren was, in fact, a huge rattlesnake den. City workers came and removed a large number of snakes. My grandfather told me, “It didn't take long to figure out why the rabbit never came out of the hole.” It was a one-way trip!

My grandfather shared this story numerous times during my childhood. As an adult, I now realize the great danger he faced. If by chance he had managed to reach into the hole, it would have resulted in serious injury or death.

God's people today face similar dangers. In Matthew 10:16, Jesus reminds His followers to be “*as wise as serpents and as harmless as doves.*” Believers must truly exercise caution, for they face a foe far more deadly than snakes (1 Peter 5:8).

--Kenny Westmoreland (Celina, TN)

Getting Into Shape

It's hard to get into shape spiritually

If you only work out on Sunday